

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 111325-81

Application No.: 09/468,747

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REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

The undersigned wishes to thank the Examiner and his Supervisor for their time and cooperation during the personal interview of February 10, 2004. During the interview, the Examiner agreed that the prior art of record does not disclose a proxy encoding scheme in which the transformation key does not reveal the grantor's key. Further, the Examiner agreed that the prior art of record does not disclose that a transformation key can be generated based on ciphertext of the encrypted document, or a random variable. The use of the random variable and/or the ciphertext for creating the transformation key permits the transformation key to be used to decrypt the document while masking the grantor's key.

Claims 1-7 were pending prior to the Office Action of September 12, 2003. Claims 1 and 4 are currently amended herein. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 4 can be found throughout the specification, more specifically, on page 20, lines 8-21 and 24-26, page 21, lines 4-6, page 30, lines 22-24, and page 32, lines 4-10. Dependent claims 8-13 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-13 are pending in the present application.

Independent claims 1 and 4 have been amended to recite more clearly that the grantor and grantee keys are used to generate a transformation key which is used to transform the document. Further, these claims expressly recite that the transformation key does not all the grantor to determine the grantee's key. In this manner, a system and method has been devised in which, unlike the prior art, the grantor need not trust the grantee.

New claims 8-13 depend from one of claims 1 and 4 and recite the novel features of generating the transformation key based on ciphertext and or a random variable. As noted by the Examiner during the interview, the prior art does not disclose these features.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. However, if the Examiner deems that any issue remains after considering this response, he is invited to call the undersigned to expedite the prosecution and work out any such issue by telephone.

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Respectfully submitted,

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